

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 21 have been amended to better define existing features of the invention.

Claim 13 is objected to for incorrectly depending from claim 1. Claim 13 has been cancelled, there Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13-19, 21 and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)¹ as being unpatentable by Culli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,641).

The embodiment of Culli et al. discloses a call forwarding system for an advanced intelligent network telecommunications environment. A calling party places a call which attempts to contact the destination by dialing an old telephone number of the called party. Upon recognizing that the calling party has called a telephone number which has been changed, the call is forwarded with a three digit code to a hub switch. The hub switch recognizes the three digit code, and determines the new telephone number and whether the destination has elected to pay for forwarding the call to the new telephone number. The system can also determine whether the calling party has elected to pay for forwarding the call to the new telephone number. The call is completed if either the called party or the calling party has elected to pay for forwarding the call. The embodiment of Culli et al. does not disclose or suggest a system for allowing a called party to share their new number with some selected people, while keeping the new number a secret from other selected people.

Claims 1, 11 and 21 as amended recite determining a telephone number of a calling party and determining, in accordance with at least a portion of the telephone number of the calling party, whether the calling party is authorized to receive a first announcement, for example the new telephone number of the called party. In such a way, the called party could maintain their new number in secret from certain people. Since the embodiment of Culli et al. does not disclose or suggest at least such a feature, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

Regarding the dependent claims, claim 3 was cancelled without prejudice and claims 3-9 depend from claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of claim 1 plus additional features. Claims 13-19 depend from claim 11, and therefore include all the features of claim 11 plus

¹ The Office Action indicates this as a 102(b) rejection, but Applicants believe the reference is a 102(a) reference.

additional features. Claims 23-24 depend from claim 21 and therefore include all of the features of claim 24 plus additional features. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claims 1, 11 and 21, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 4-9, 13-19 and 23-24 also be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 10, 12, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Culli et al.

Claims 2 and 10 depend from claim 1, claims 12 and 20 depend from claim 11, and claim 22 depends from claim 21. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claims 1, 11, and 21, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 2, 10, 12, 20 and 22 also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For at least the above-identified reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the application be allowed. If for any reason, the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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